

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 06373 311053Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, YO
SUBJ: VISIT OF YUGOSLAV BUSINESS DELEGATION

REF: (A) STATE 219184, (B) BELGRADE 6192

1. SUMMARY: FEDERAL CHAMBER OF ECONOMY PRESIDENT VAKIC NOW PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 25. HE IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KREPS OR UNDER SECRETARY HARMAN AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS ON THAT DATE. SINCE REMAINING DAYS OF HIS SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 OFFICIAL VISIT WILL BE SPENT OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, VAKIC IS WILLING TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON DURING OCTOBER 4-6 PERIOD TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER USG AGENCIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

ENG SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS MET AUGUST 30 WITH FEDERAL CHAMBER OFFICIALS, HEADED BY MR. BOGUMIL RUPNIK (SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPED WESTERN AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES), TO CLARIFY DETAILS OF VAKIC TRADE DELEGATION VISIT, PARTICULARLY POSSIBLE SEPTEMBER 25 MEETING WITH SECRETARY KREPS OR UNDER SECRETARY HARMAN. RUPNIK PROVIDED FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ITINERARY FOR VAKIC VISIT:

SEPT 22 - VAKIC DEPARTS BELGRADE AND ARRIVES NEW YORK CITY

SEPT 23 - NEW YORK CITY
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SEPT 24 - IN AFTERNOON VAKIC TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON HEADING GROUP OF AROUND 8 PEOPLE. CHAMBER COULD NOT GIVE US EXACT COMPOSITION OF THIS GROUP.

SEPT 25 - MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. VAKIC WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMERCE, EXIMBANK AND STATE. IF

MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED WITH IMF AND/OR IBRD SO MUCH THE BETTER. HOWEVER, RUPNIK EMPHASIZED ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR SEPT 25 WERE UP TO USG, THAT CHAMBER RECOGNIZED ANNUAL IMF/IBRD SESSIONS WILL BE UNDERWAY AND THAT SOME OF DESIRED MEETINGS MAY THEREFORE NOT BE POSSIBLE. FOR THIS REASON VAKIC IS PREPARED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON DURING OCT 4-6 PERIOD FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF SEPTEMBER 25-30 OFFICIAL VISIT AND HIS SUBSEQUENT TRIP TO FLORIDA. RUPNIK EXPECTS EMPHASIS DURING ANY OCT 4-6 RETURN VISIT WOULD BE ON FINANCIAL TOPICS WITH VAKIC ALSO WANTING TO TALK TO PRIVATE BANKERS. NOTE: ORIGINALLY CHAMBER ADVISED US IT WANTED MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON TO TAKE PLACE ONLY DURING OCT 4-6 PERIOD BECAUSE IT BELIEVED EFFECTIVENESS OF VAKIC VISIT TO WASHINGTON DURING PREVIOUS WEEK WOULD BE HINDERED BY IMF/IBRD MEETINGS TAKING PLACE.

SEPT 26 - VAKIC MORNING MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GENERAL ELECTRIC AND U.S.-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL. CHAMBER IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THESE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK CITY BUT FELT LATTER IS MORE LIKELY. IN AFTERNOON VAKIC DEPARTS FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

SEPT 27 - PROGRAM IN SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA. CHAMBER IS NOT CLEAR ON WHY SAN JOSE SELECTED FOR VISIT. CHAMBER KNOWS OF NO EVENTS PLANNED.

SEPT 28 - MORNING VISIT TO MCDONNELL DOUGLAS PLANT AT LONG
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BEACH, CALIFORNIA, FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON DEPARTURE FOR CHICAGO.

SEPT 29 - PROGRAM IN CHICAGO. NO AM PROGRAM. HELP FROM US WOULD BE APPRECIATED. PM YUGOSLAVS WILL ARRANGE.

SEPT 30 - VAKIC DEPARTS CHICAGO AND ARRIVES FLORIDA TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING. RUPNIK DECLINED TO GIVE ANY SPECIFICS ON VAKIC'S TRAVELS BEYOND SEPTEMBER 30 OTHER THAN TO INDICATE VAKIC WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON OCT 4-6.

3. DURING MEETING RUPNIK REQUESTED USG HELP IN SEVERAL AREAS TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF VISIT. SPECIFICALLY CHAMBER ASKED FOR:

- A. ASSISTANCE IN DEVISING PROGRAMS FOR VAKIC SAN JOSE AND CHICAGO VISITS;
- B. ANY SUGGESTIONS USG MIGHT HAVE TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF DELEGATION VISIT; AND
- C. HELP IN ENSURING THAT VAKIC RECEIVED A DETAILED, CONCRETE,

ITINERARY BEFORE HIS BELGRADE DEPARTURE. COMMENT: UNTIL NOW CHAMBER FROM THIS END HAS ALWAYS GENTLY DECLINED OUR OFFERS OF USG ASSISTANCE. CHAMBER APPEARS TO BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT YUGOSLAV TRADE REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK AND CHICAGO AND EMBASSY PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON ARE NOT FINALIZING ARRANGEMENTS FAST ENOUGH. ALSO, THERE OBVIOUSLY ARE SOME COMMUNICATION GAPS BETWEEN THE CHAMBER AND ITS PEOPLE IN THE U.S. THERE IS NOT MUCH WE CAN DO FROM HERE AT THIS LATE DATE AND WE ASSUME THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE ALREADY HEAVILY INVOLVED IN VISIT PREPARATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVS. WE DO, HOWEVER, WANT TO BE RESPONSIVE AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE YOU CAN DIRECT TO THESE AREAS OF YUGOSLAV CONCERN.

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